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PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE.
1877

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OF THE

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

OF THE

CHARLOTTE DISTRICT, N. C. CONFERENCE,

M. E. CHURCH SOUTH,

WHICH MET IN THE

M. E. Church in Monroe, N. C.,

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUG. 1, 1877.

Compiled by Charles G. Montgomery, Secretary.

MONROE, N. C.:
PRINTED AT THE MONROE ENQUIRER JOB OFFICE.
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PREFACE.

WHEREAS, W. C. Wolfe, Esq., Editor of the *Monroe Enquirer*, proposes to publish the proceedings of this District Conference in pamphlet form, assuming all pecuniary responsibility himself, only that the preachers and delegates promise to aid him by selling and circulating the same, and make return of proceeds to him; therefore,

Resolved, That we accept his proposition upon the terms proposed.

The above preamble and resolution was offered by Rev. O. J. Brent, of Monroe Station, and adopted just upon the eve of the adjournment of the Conference, and hence the proceedings appear without special preparation for publication. Neither the President, Pastors of the several Charges, nor the Secretary had the slightest idea that they would ever be read by the public. In giving the reports I have not only given the substance, but also, as far as possible, the exact language of the several Pastors in the District. This is, therefore, *literally* the proceedings of the Charlotte District Conference, which convened in the Methodist Church in Monroe on Wednesday morning, August 1st, 1877, and adjourned Saturday evening, August 4th.

C. G. MONTGOMERY, SECRETARY.

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PROCEEDINGS.

Monroe, N. C., Wednesday, August 1st, 1877.

FIRST DAY.

The Conference opened with religious services conducted by Rev. W. H. Bobbitt, D. D., President, assisted by Rev. T. Page Ricaud, of Albemarle Circuit, at the conclusion of which the President requested C. G. Montgomery, Secretary of the last Conference to come forward and call the roll of delegates elected to this Conference. Forty-five responded.

On motion of Rev. O. J. Brent, C. G. Montgomery, of Concord, N. C., was elected Secretary.

The President congratulated the Conference upon the good attendance at the opening.

On motion of Rev. O. J. Brent, it was agreed that we meet at 9 A. M., and adjourn at 11 for Divine Services, each day; re-assemble at 3 P. M., and adjourn at will.

"The Bar of the Conference" was made to include all seats to the rear facing of the second window from the pulpit on each side of the church.

Rev. W. H. Bobbitt, D. D., Revs. O. J. Brent, M. H. Hoyle, Z. Rush and Mr. W. H. Phifer, were appointed a Committee on Public Worship.

It was agreed that we have no other Committees unless asked for, for a special purpose.

Rev. J. T. Brazington, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Monroe and Rev. J. W. Jenkins, of the Methodist Church in Rockingham, were introduced by the President and invited to seats in the Conference.

Hereupon the President delivered a very earnest and eloquent appeal to the Conference, to pray and labor constantly for the

Divine blessings upon our Conference; that the Holy Ghost may descend upon the community; that the church may be blessed with a gracious revival; that Ministers and Laymen may reconsecrate themselves to the work of the Master, and leave this Conference having their strength renewed, determined to be more faithful in the future, that they may be prepared to meet the demands of the times upon them. He concluded with an assurance of a cordial welcome of our visit by the citizens of Monroe.

Rev. O. J. Brent, announced that Rev. J. C. Thomas, of Concord Circuit, would preach in this church to-night.

Adjourned with the "L. M. Doxology" and the Benediction by the President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened promptly at 3 o'clock, President in the Chair. Religious services by Rev. Miles Foy, of Stanly Circuit.

Pastoral charges called and two arrivals announced. Rev. R. A. Miller, Pastor of Presbyterian Church at Monroe, was introduced by the President and invited to a seat in the Conference.

Albemarle Circuit—Was then called and reported by Rev. T. Page Ricaud, Pastor.

Spiritual condition judged to be extraordinarily good, a great deal of religion in the country Attendance upon worship good. Family worship general and family religion good. Remarkable country for *old-fashioned* religion, *religion of power*. Private lives consistent. His people respond to every call of the P. E., and Pastor for money have *never* failed.

The response made to a recent appeal of the P. E., in behalf of Foreign Missions, is an evidence of the characteristic liberality. They look well after his support, he has but little to do with that. Everything is always in order when they come to the official meetings. Financial claims upon his church about up to date. Expects to bring them up in full to the Annual Conference. In response to question of Rev. T. W. Guthrie, states that his people are not possessed of much wealth; he attributes their success in managing their finances to their skillful system, their united effort, their love of their P. E., their Pastor and the church. Sabbath Schools remarkably prosperous, has seven appointments and nine Sabbath Schools, most of which are well attended by the old

people, who come in their wagons and make a day's work of the Sabbath School. The more he has seen of the country the more he wondered at their devotion to God. They believe that the support of the Gospel is a part of their life, their very existence. His members do not at all indulge in wordly amusements. None dance or attend circuses. Has a good, comfortable Parsonage, decently furnished—Church property valued at $3,450.00. There is no missionary ground in his charge. Raised $45.00 for our "Publishing House."

Stanly Circuit—By Rev. Miles Foy, Pastor, Reports his people generally pious and united. He has one Sabbath School of eighty, one of seventy-four, two of fifty, one of forty-five, one of twenty-four, numbering in all about four hundred. Parents attend with their children; members live consistently; great many conduct family worship; they are not given to worldly amusements; has known only one or two cases of intemperance. His people talk like they feel an interest in his support, have not paid much yet, have promised all; parsonage not comfortable—it is unfinished, no well, a good garden. He thinks his people desire to be religious and are improving in their liberality. Church property valued at $3,000.

Wadesboro Circuit—By Rev. J. H. Guinn, Pastor, Thinks the spiritual condition hopeful, his congregations are as large if not larger than he has ever known them, attention very good; generally has manifestations of the presence of the Master. This is his fourth year on the charge; thinks his people do not know enough about each other; there is not that unanimity that ought to exist among the people of God; they do not love each other's interests as they should. He has brought a great many into the Church within the last three or four years and has not been able to educate some of them to a proper standpoint; there is some dram-drinking —most of these have promised him to abstain. Attendance upon the ordinances of the Church generally good, except "Infant Baptism," has not been able to induce some to baptise their children; has no trouble with worldly amusements; thinks his circuit an average in regard to family worship; as a general thing they commune; finds it difficult to keep up prayer-meetings regularly; has never filled an appointment where he did not feel that by urging he could have a revival; Sabbath Schools better than he

ever saw them; use "International Lessons" in most of his Schools, his people are delighted with them; Sabbath Schools take a short vacation for protracted meetings, but do not disorganize; parsonage not very good—it is being repaired; Church property valued at $5,400; he thinks his young people are inclined to be pious; most of them are members of the Church; has no missionary ground. Two of his Churches are very good, three sorry, only one of them has a stove. John Robinson, Esq., states that he has heard no complaint of his people not taking proper care of their pastor, he is not prepared to report upon the finance, his is a cotton country, his people have money only once a year and then they pay their Pastor. Rev. J. H. Guinn, hereupon stated that they generally pay him a little during the first of the year and the balance at the close; his people do manifest an interest in his welfare, generally inquire of him when he meets them, "how he is getting on." In reply to question, states that great many who are now methodist, were raised in Baptist families, and are opposed to "Infant Baptism." He made an effort after Bishop McTyeire's lecture upon this subject, in Wilmington, and baptised fifty. He thinks the prejudice is giving way and will with proper effort, soon cease to exist. Mr. W. F. Stubbs, states that he does not think people from his part of the circuit, are doing as well as they might, but will pay up when crops come in.

Wadesboro Station—By Rev. T. W. Guthrie, Pastor. This is his first year there. He has visited the houses and talked with nearly every family of his charge with a view to form an idea of their spiritual condition; he does not think it as good as it ought to be in view of the advantages they enjoy, but in a hopeful condition. Has some as deeply pious ladies as he ever knew, and some men who cultivate piety and he believes enjoy communion with God. His congregations are as attentive to preaching as any he ever saw, are as regular in their attendance and they *never sleep* in Church; has weekly prayer-meetings, but they are not as well attended as they ought to be, or as he has been informed they have been heretofore. Attendance upon the Sacrament very poor, cannot account for it only, that when he questions them upon this point, they say they are unworthy, and he thinks they misinterpret the Scripture reference to him that eateth and drinketh unworthy,

&c. They attend to the baptism of their children and are in every other sense *very decided methodists* His Sunday School is in pretty good condition—average attendance about fifty. They use "International Lessons" in connection with Catechism; has a corps of faithful teachers; the school is doing good; his people do not observe family worship much; has no trouble with worldly amusements; "Our Church Literature" taken a good deal and read with profit; his people are *well informed on methodism*—the policy and ordinances of the Church. Mr. Hugh A. Crawford, reports that they are not up with their finances; the Stewards are very anxious to bring up all the interests of the Church, have heretofore paid in the Fall; there are some cash men who pay early in the year, but at this season they get very little money; he thinks the Church is doing as well as heretofore; use the envelope system, do not succeed well; collections are not uniform; Church property worth $2,500. Rev. T. W. Guthrie, states that he has no doubt but that all the claims upon the Church will be met. Adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

President called the Conference to order promptly at 9 o'clock. Religious services by Rev. M. C. Thomas, of Pleasant Grove. Roll called. Seventeen arrivals.

The President again urged the Conference to reconsecrate themselves to the service of the Master, and earnestly seek grace sufficient to meet the demands of the times upon them.

Rev. R. G. Barrett, P. E., of the Shelby District, introduced by the President and invited to a seat in the Conference. He gives a gratifying report from his work, and presents a desire that our District Conference endorse a resolution passed at their's, proposing to memorialize our next Annual Conference, and request that it memorialize the General Conference at its session in Atlanta, Ga., in May, 1878, and ask for a division of the North Carolina Conference. On motion of Rev. O. J. Brent, a Committee of five, was appointed to respond to this request and submit their action to this Conference at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Revs. O. J. Brent and W. D. Lee, T. C. Smith, W. H. Smith and F. A. Clark, were accordingly appointed.

Concord Circuit—By Rev. J. C. Thomas, Pastor. Has five appointments, attendance upon public and private worship good—some congregations large; some small; members punctual in their

attendance upon divine worship; spiritual condition good, they go to Church with good intentions and pure motives, they listen prayerfully, and he thinks pray for their own spiritual good, and that of the community; prayer-meetings conducted at all the Churches—some of the Churches have not men who pray in public, to conduct prayer-meetings, but they are supplied regularly by members of his other Churches, who conduct their services; has one Christian Association, whose object is to draw out young men. Every member is required to take turn in conducting these services; has one other Church from which five or six go out and conduct services in other Churches; has four Sabbath Schools; two Churches have no Sabbath Schools, he has one not connected with his work, conducted by members from Rocky Ridge Church, who receive abundant encouragement; Schools are not as good as they ought to be, because he thinks they are not kept up regularly during the winter, except at Centre Church, where the School conducted by C. G. Montgomery is kept up winter and summer, and is doing well; his Sabbath Schools are all well conducted, they use "Lesson Papers" and read and study the Bible also; has two prayer-meetings in connection with Sabbath Schools; his members live very consistently, *very*; no member drinks, favors drunkness or would vote for it; no dancing; no factions, all live in harmony and are at peace with each other; stoves in all his Churches. This happy state enjoyed by his people is the fruit of preaching methodist doctrine, heart-felt religion; he found them in this condition, his predecessors have been faithful; class-meetings have not been generally attended because he has not suitable leaders to conduct them, his people favor them; they attend to all the ordinances of the Church, all children are baptized, and parents seem to enjoy a great deal of religion while seeing their children baptized; Sacrament is well observed; very few unconverted members of his Church; many joined as seekers but have since been converted; he invites all sincere penitents and earnest seekers to join his Church; Church property valued at $4,500; but few Church papers taken—Mr. C. E. Sides, was called upon for financial report, but stated that Bro. Thomas was better posted on the Circuit than he, as he could only report from his own Church. Bro. Thomas reports, considerably behind in finances, are always so at this season of the

year; believes they will meet all claims upon them at the close of the year, or nearly so.

Advocate—The claims of the 'Raleigh Christian Advocate," were presented by Rev. H. P. Cole, of Concord station, who tendered the regards of the editor, who regretted that he could not attend our Conference, was prevented from doing so by family afflictions. Bro. Cole, in a few pertinent remarks, strongly endorsed the "Advocate" and forcibly impressed upon our people the importance of reading our Church Organ—he concluded by saying that he is prepared to receive dues and subscriptions to the "Advocate."

The merits of the "Nashville Christian Advocate," were presented by Rev. T. H. Edwards, who stated that he was likewise prepared to receive dues and take subscriptions to it. The value of our Conference Organ and the importance of its being read and circulated among our people everywhere, was discussed at some length and with great earnestness and force by the President. Adjourned for preaching by Rev. T. W. Guthrie, of Wadesboro station.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

President in the Chair promptly at 3 o'clock. Religious services conducted by Rev. J. W. Jenkins, of Rockingham, Fayetteville District. Two arrivals announced.

Lilesville Circuit.—Rev. C. M. Pepper, Pastor, being absent, by sickness, Hugh G. Fladger, Esq., reports: Seven appointments, all served on Sabbath; services well attended; spiritual condition of his own Church good. They have done remarkably well under the blessings of God, since the dedication of their new Church. Sabbath Schools he thinks doing well, are accomplishing much good throughout the circuit. They organized at Lilesville, a little over a year ago with only eleven, they now number sixty-three, and have gone to Forrestville and organized, where they have fifty-three; no Church there, but preach in a schoolhouse, have an organization and think it a fair field for success. The old people and children of the circuit take great interest in the Sabbath School, have gone out into the waste places and brought in children; they have a very good, comfortable parsonage, at Lilesville, a splendid well, and are succeeding very well in paying

for it; thinks they will pay the entire debt during this Fall; he does not know of a single instance of a member drinking or indulging in worldly amusements; thinks the people have done all that is necessary for the comfort of their Pastor during his sickness; thinks all the Stewards have visited him, knows of his own knowledge, that he has wanted nothing for his comfort; Church papers not very well taken; they use "Lesson Papers" in their Sabbath Schools, they work well; prayer-meetings are not well attended; Church property valued at $5,500; three Churches have stoves; no missionary grounds.

Concord Station—Rev. H. P. Cole, Pastor: General state of the Church good; fair attendance upon preaching; a very good attendance upon the Ordinances of the Church; Sacrament universally observed by his members; prayer-meetings very well attended; family worship compares favorably with others; official members pray in public; has the largest proportion of men who pray in public of any charge he has ever served; prayer-meetings conducted by them in his absence. Sabbath School is in a very good condition; is one of the best organized he ever knew; has an active, working Superintendent, with an efficient corps of teachers; School is well attended and doing great deal of good; has no difficulty with worldly amusements; members do not drink nor favor drinking—no member votes License; great harmony exists, people are more united than any he has ever served; in deciding questions before the Church, any individual member, cheerfully yields his or her opinion to the majority; his Church building has recently been remodeled and very greatly improved, and though in the beginning, there were many opinions as to how the work should be done, and a variety of tastes as to suitable colors for the painting, yet after the Committee decided and the work is done, there is not a dissatisfied member; he thinks he has some very pious, devoted members, has had six accessions; had a week of prayer, well attended and a deep feeling of grace prevailed at every service, had six or seven conversions; thinks they are about ready for another week of prayer—are anxiously hoping and praying for a revival; a fair subscription to our Church papers, he has made an arrangement by which he expects to place the "Advocate" in every family in his charge; his people are true to the interests of Methodism; they were so much pressed in finances when the call of the

Publishing House was made, that he was really surprised, that without a dissenting voice, those whom he consulted told him to take up the collection. Mr. C. G. Montgomery, reports not up in finances, have raised considerable amount this year for repairing Church and other purposes, expect to pay in full and think they will do so. Mr. Willis Elkins reports that our being behind in paying our Pastor, cannot be attributed to a want of appreciation of Pastor, because we love him, and, he thinks, will pay him; Church property valued at $8,000; remitted $5.00 to Publishing House.

Mount Pleasant Circuit—Rev. A. D. Betts, Pastor: Second year on the circuit; has a great many members, most of them professors, good many professed during his service to them; good many do not live up to the full measure of their duty, do not have family worship; very few drink; has not heard of any of them dancing or attending circuses; has baptized fifty-seven, they often bring their children to him to be baptized, but after giving them to the Lord do not properly raise them; there is a want of proper example and family government; some who pray loudly in Church, do not conduct family worship at home; his congregations are large; has six Churches, three stoves; three Sabbath Schools, use "Church Literature;" do not go into winter quarters; at one Church has regular prayer-meetings and class-meetings, well attended; Pastor is very much encouraged. Surely there are a great many who want to save their souls. They have a religion that enables them to die well; some died happily during this year. Bro. Betts concluded with some touching instances of the triumph of faith upon the death-bed; whereupon the President made a few feeling remarks upon this glorious feature of our religion, it enables our members to die well. Bro. Betts, reports Church property valued at $6,800—parsonage good; Pastor about one-third paid; raised $5.00 for Publishing House.

Ansonville Circuit—Rev. T. H. Edwards, Pastor: Thinks the Methodist the most liberal people in the world, not in a financial sense alone, but in that big-souled general sense. No people love and respect their Presiding Elder and Pastor, more than his, but they are so liberal to other people, and their opinions as to prevent that union of effort that ought to exist among them; the lack of which impairs their influence; he has signs of improvement and better times; they are behind in finances, have given in sub-

scriptions about as much as asked for; need have no fears about coming up; has eight regular appointments and one irregular; Church property valued at $4,000; Parsonage in tolerably good condition; undertook to build a Church at Polkton, had better success in the commencement than he had ever had before, failure to get the promised lot stopped them; had employed the workmen, does not know whether they will now be able to complete the Church or not, the lot is the difficulty; Sabbath Schools in tolerably good condition, one at every regular appointment, numbering totally three hundred, and in addition to these they conduct a Union School at Polkton, numbering one hundred; two of his Sabbath Schools are very good, one has continued Summer and Winter, thinks another numbering over eighty will this Winter; he thinks every family in reach of Concord attends the Sabbath School, they have gone out and even clothed poor children that they might attend the Sabbath School; his other Sabbath Schools are tolerably good, except two; has one Missionary School; raised $13,00 for Publishing House; members observe Sacrament ordinarily well; do not pray in their families generally, some do; no intemperance or indulgence in worldly amusements that he knows of; he takes up his year's work in regular order and has not reached Infant Baptism yet, but will attend to that; Churches are in tolerable condition; he has made arrangements to have them cleaned and keep them decent; not quite one-third of salary paid; good many take Church papers.

South Charlotte Circuit—Rev. Z. Rush, Pastor: Spiritually, thinks he has some very pious members, really devoted to methodism, others are not so pious, fears they do not enjoy that religion they ought; he has trouble with some, because of dram-drinking and too much hard cider; some do not respect the Sabbath as they should, instead of attending Church, as they ought, they visit—upon the whole, he thinks however, that his circuit is looking up; he has good congregations and a decided improvement in attention to preaching; has Sabbath Schools at all his appointments, some are doing well, others not so well—thinks they are improving; has a new Church at Mill Grove, a large congregation and good Sabbath School there; Church property worth $2,500 or $3000; comfortable parsonage; very few keep up family worship; observe the Ordinances tolerably well; no trouble with worldly

amusements; not many Church papers taken. Mr. W. T. Taylor reports: Have not done as much as they ought for his Pastor's support, but they only have money once a year, they have generally paid up and he has no fears but that they will this year; they have failed a few times, because of bad management of Stewards, people have always paid when properly approached; he thinks the morals of his Church much improving, attendance as good or better than he has ever knew it. Mr. M. E. Crowell thinks that because of expenditures on Church and lack of proper effort on part of Stewards, they are behind; they cannot pay now, till Fall; they assess their members and they have generally paid. Bro. Rush states they are very much behind in finances; Stewards have not inquired much after his wants, have promised to bring up everything at the end of the year.

Rev. A. J. Stafford, of the South Carolina Conference, introduced by the President and invited to a seat in the Conference.

Discussion on finances, participated in by Revs. T. W. Guthrie, of Wadesboro Station, T. Page Ricaud, of Albemarle, Circuit, and Hugh G. Fladger, Esq., of Lilesville.

Rev. O. J. Brent, announced that Rev. R. G. Barrett, P. E., of Shelby District, would preach to-night in this Church.

Adjourned to 9 A. M., to-morrow.

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THIRD DAY.

President in the Chair promptly at 9 o'clock. Religious services conducted by Rev. A. D. Betts, of Mt. Pleasant Circuit.

Minutes of yesterday read, corrected and approved.

Rev. T. M. Jones, D. D., President of Greensboro Female College, Rev. J. A. Cunninggim, Agent for our College and Rev. S. D. Adams, Pastor of Greensboro Station, were introduced by the President and invited to seats in the Conference.

Rev. O. J. Brent, Chairman of the Committee, appointed to respond to request of Shelby District, through Rev. R. G. Barrett, as aforesaid, submitted the following resolution, which, after conerable debate. was laid on the table till the opening of the evening session:

Resolved, That we, as preachers and delegates of Charlotte District Conference, do memorialize the N. C. Conference at its next session to memorialize the next General Conference to make an

equal division of the N. C. Conference; *provided*, the territory in North Carolina belonging to the Holston and Virginia Conferences is transferred for that purpose.

Adjourned for preaching, by Rev. J. W. Jenkins, of Rockingham, Fayetteville District.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

President in the Chair promptly at 3 o'clock. Religious services by Rev. J. F. Butt, of Calvary Mission Charlotte. H. W. Ledbetter, and C. Blaylock, granted leave of absence.

Report of Committee in reference to division of Conference called up, whereupon C. G. Montgomery, offered the following substitute, viz:

Resolved 1. That we appreciate and enjoyed the visit of Rev. R. G. Barrett, P. E., of Shelby District and we received through him the desire of his District for a division of the North Carolina Conference and the wish that we endorse their action.

2. That with all due respect to their wishes, and with assurance of our brotherly love and profound interest in them in common with our methodism, we deem it inexpedient to divide the North Carolina Conference as it now exists. This substitute, after considerable discussion was adopted by a large majority.

On motion of Jno. Robinson, Esq., it was agreed that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 8½ A. M., on to-morrow morning, and decide then, where we shall hold the next District Conference. Rev. Dr. B. F. Dixon, of Morganton Station, Shelby District, introduced by the President and invited to a seat in the Conference.

Monroe Station—Rev. O. J. Brent, Pastor, States that he was received as cordially, and has been, as kindly treated by his people, to this date, as he has ever been by any before, and he has no doubt but that their kind treatment will continue. Spiritual condition, in the main, good; has some disorderly members; some do not come up to the full measure of their duty; members generally commune; always has a good spiritual time; never has had a communion that was not a happy one; some do not identify themselves with the Church in all its interests; some Methodists have been living here some time who have not connected themselves with his Church. Prayer-meetings very well attended by young people; some old people attend occasionally—some punctually.

He has had to conduct prayer meetings with no one to lead in prayer; had to do all the public praying himself. Has had six deaths during this year; all died in the faith; has a very good Sabbath School—about one hundred and fifty members; Superintendent and teachers efficient, though not as punctual in their attendance as they ought to be; some heads of families conduct family worship—many do not. Conference paper not well taken; has no parsonage; good many young people who belong to his Church; most of them are consistent; some are not as devoted as they ought to be; has some few cases of intemperance; no members dance that he knows of. There has been no circus since he has been here, and he hopes another may never come. He thinks his Church has the ability to do a great deal, and will do it. It has recently been made a Station; thinks some are improving in spirituality. Raised for Publishing House, $5.00. His people have adopted the envelope system; the result has been, he has had to run no store account, and does not expect to run any. Mr. Wm. H. Phifer states that they have not entirely paid him up the dues on last month's salary. They like only a few dollars of paying half the salary of P. E. and Pastor. People, as far as he knows, and especially the Stewards, like the envelope system; Stewards all like it because it saves them a great deal of trouble collecting money; majority of people pay promptly, though nearly half has been paid; no one man has had to pay more than his dues; they take up collection the first Sabbath of each month, instead of weekly—they like this best. They divide the salary into ten equal installments.

Tryon Street, Charlotte—Rev. A. A. Boshamer, Pastor. Thinks the spiritual condition as good as heretofore; congregations are good and as attentive as he ever knew; has two prayer-meetings. The regular Wednesday evening prayer-meeting is well attended and the interest manifested is good. The young men's prayer-meeting at 9 o'clock Sunday morning is emphatically a devotional meeting, upon which they depend largely for Divine blessings. There are ten or eleven young men of that meeting who pray in public when called upon.

The Sabbath School, conducted by Dr. T. C. Smith, is in good condition; is better organized, as he is informed, than it has been for several years. He administers the Sacrament on the first Sab-

bath of every month. It is not largely attended, but he has had some exceedingly interesting and profitable communions. He presumes family worship is not generally kept up; Sabbath School literature used; Church papers not extensively taken; he does not think that there is much disposition among his members to indulge in worldly amusements. They have a great many temptations, but he has been directly informed of only one who has been dancing; he has heard of some others; he thinks that remarkably few indulge, in view of the great temptations they have. He is sure a great many of his people do not attend balls; has a great many nice, valuable young men belonging to his Church—more than to any other congregation in the city. He has received some on profession of faith—seven or eight by certificate; thinks he has some members who go too far in the direction of intemperance. The Church is moving on pleasantly and profitably.

Dr. T. C. Smith reports: They have not paid half their salary—not quite as well up in finances as they were at this time last year. They expect to meet all demands of the Church upon them—they have always done so. They use the envelope system; take up collections weekly—they are not as large as last year; have had to apply outside for money; have avoided making public appeals and do not expect to make any—their congregation have an aversion to it. The Stewards look well after their Pastor's interests and comfort; they have semi-monthly meetings and discuss his probable wants among themselves. Pastor here states that he has never asked for money without receiving it. Dr. Smith says their Pastor has not crowded them during this depression; he has been very considerate and moderate in his requests, and the Stewards would any time sooner take money from their own pockets than deny him. Raised $20.75 for Publishing House. Church property valued at $18,000 now. The Church is in good condition, and he thinks their parsonage as good as any in the State. Pastor states that he has been informed by some reliable old members, that in 1831 there were but seven methodists in the city of Charlotte, then worshipping in a small, insignificant building. They now have a Church eligibly situated, and one of the best and most commodious in the State, with a membership of over four hundred, and, as has been stated, as good parsonage as any; and, in addition to this, there is another Methodist Church and congregation in the city.

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Raleigh

They are now largely in the majority of any other Church in Charlotte.

Calvary Mission, Charlotte—Rev. J. F. Butt, Pastor. Has a convenient Church, well finished and elegantly painted; centrally located; worth $1,500; has added twenty-one members this year; expelled one; he enforces the Discipline strictly; has no drunkenness or indulgence in worldly amusements now; has baptized ten children; has had three deaths during the year—they died in triumph; has good congregations; they attend regularly; has some pious, zealous, working members now, who, at the beginning of the year, were very intemperate young men. There are two or three of these who not only take an active interest in the operations of the Church, but also in the Young Men's Christian Association. His is a Missionary Church—not self-sustaining; has about fifty members; congregations composed of a great many wicked people; has eight men who pray in public—*are praying men*; they are looking forward to a gracious revival. A very good Sabbath School; numbers sixty. He holds out inducements to his Sunday School children to go out and bring others into the school. He feels confident that, with proper effort and management, his Church will succeed.

Pineville Circuit—Rev. Dr. W. D. Lee, Pastor. Has a small work—only four Churches, two in Mecklenburg, two in Union; membership about three hundred and thirty or forty; spiritual condition is as good as he knows any where else; congregations are good where population is sufficient; attendance on Ordinances good; all do not take the Sacrament—a good proportion do; has only one social religious meeting—that is in the Presbyterian Church, and is conducted by the Methodists and Presbyterians alternately. It is composed largely of young people, not that they are more pious, but more inclined to congregate than old people. There is as much piety here, in his opinion, as at other places. He has a large number of consistent, devoted members—a number who lead in prayer when called on; but it is inconvenient for farmers in the country to hold prayer-meetings at night, during the week. This is the reason they have none. Children, he thinks, are universally tendered for baptism—generally at the Church, occasionally at home. He has had no accessions upon profession of faith—two or three upon certificate; has baptized four or five in-

fants. Has two Sabbath Schools in flourishing condition, especially the one at Harrison's Church, where he has the best he has ever seen in the country. Superintendent and corps of teachers efficient; well attended by old people and young people, wet or dry, cold or hot; kept up perpetually, except a week or two about Christmas; school numbers about seventy; very few children of his members who do not belong to the Sabbath School. He has heard of none of his members indulging in intemperance or worldly amusements, except in town; has had a few to dance. He does not know a country as free from dram-drinking as his. There is not a licensed dram shop in either Providence or Pineville townships; have not had one for three years; hopes they will never have another—public opinion there is so strong against it. Bro. Squires reports Pastor about one fifth paid; thinks, though, he has been comfortable. One of the Stewards advances to him what he wants during the year; he expects them to foot the bill at the close of the year; they intend to do it. Raised $15.00 for Publishing House. Church property valued at $4,500.

Pleasant Grove Circuit—Rev. M. C. Thomas, Pastor. Has six Churches, served twice a month; congregations good on Sabbath; attendance at two week-day appointments fair; Ordinances of the Church generally observed; no difficulty about Infant Baptism; has baptized twenty-seven; received by baptism, certificate and otherwise, eleven; no missionary ground; a compact circuit. Has six Sabbath Schools; four branch schools; two new ones formed this year. Between five and ten dollars raised this year for Sabbath School purposes. They use Lesson Papers, Bible and Catechism. They propose raising money for missions in their Sunday School. Parsonage tolerably supplied; has a good well; $10 collected for parsonage; $10.75 for Publishing House; has sold about $130 worth of our books; about twenty "Advocates" are taken in his circuit. He has a little trouble with intemperance; none with worldly amusements; only a small proportion conduct family worship; a large number pray in public; has four regular weekly prayer-meetings. His Churches are comfortable; people have been very kind to him; he has a good field for building up a first-class circuit; has two Churches with stoves. Mr. John Winchester states that they have paid their Pastor about one third; expect to pay all. They inquire after his comfort, and always try to

supply his wants. Church property valued at $5,000.

The following resolution in regard to sustaining our Publishing House, was introduced by Rev. T. H. Edwards and adopted by the Conference:

WHEREAS, The founder of Methodism did, in the infancy and poverty of our Church, raise a fund for the purpose of furnishing the Church with religious literature through all time, and did make the Church the natural guardian of that fund; and, whereas, our predecessors have been faithful and have delivered it into our hands greatly increased and capable of doing great good; and, whereas, on account of money pressure that fund is embarrassed and liable to be forever lost to the Church; therefore,

Resolved, 1st, That we will not prove unfaithful in our relation.

Resolved 2d. That we will accept the amount $4,000, suggested by Dr. A. H. Redford, as the portion which the North Carolina Conference should pay to relieve the Publishing House, and that we will divide one-tenth of this amount to our different charges on the basis of the Conference collections, and continue it till collected or we have sold Publications of the House, till the profits shall amount to the same.

Announced that Rev. J. H. Guinn will preach in this Church tonight.

Adjourned with the benediction by the President.

———o———

FOURTH DAY.

President in the chair at 8½ o'clock. Religious services by Rev. A. J. Stafford, of the S. C. Conference.

Minutes read and approved.

Wadesboro was unanimously selected as the place for holding the next session of this Conferece.

Resolution offered by Rev. O. J. Brent in reference to publishing our Proceedings in pamphlet form, adopted. (See resolution in Preface.)

Upon the adoption of the resolution, C. G. Montgomery offered the following, which was unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That we hereby tender to Bro. W. C. Wolfe, Editor of the *Monroe Enquirer*, our thanks for his kind offer to publish our Minutes in pamphlet form, a kindness we highly appreciate, and hereby obligate ourselves to do our utmost to circulate and sell them.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. H. P. Cole, viz:

Resolved, That the "Raleigh Christian Advocate" is well worthy of our patronage, and is doing an important work in spreading piety and devotion to the cause of Christianity within the bounds of the Conference.

In support of this resolution strong speeches were made by Revs. T. W. Guthrie, of Wadesboro, H. P. Cole, of Concord, J. W. Jenkins, of Rockingham, Messrs. W. F. Stubbs and Hugh A. Fladger, of Lilesville, and also by the President.

Mr. Fladger proposed to be one of any number who would take a copy to be sent to some poor family in the District. This proposition elicited considerable interest, and resulted in several responses.

It must be gratifying to the Editors of *our Conference Organ*, the "Raleigh Christian Advocate," as it certainly is to our Church, to know that it is so heartily endorsed and highly appreciated by our people everywhere. The universal testimony of our Conference was, that it is accomplishing incalculable good; that it is of inestimable value to every Methodist family desiring to keep posted on the operations of our Church, and to have the minds of their children stored with religious thought from the minds of men educated in Methodist theology and religious literature.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. T. W. Guthrie, viz:

Resolved, That the "Southern Review," published by Herrick & Bledsoe, is doing a grand work for truth and Methodism in the land and ought to be extensively circulated and read. Adopted.

The following in regard to our Nashville publications were offerred by Rev. T. W. Guthrie, and unanimously adopted—viz:

Resolved, That the Nashville "Christian Advocate" is a publication of the whole "Methodist Episcopal Church, South"; and is therefore our paper, and that we do cheerfully recommend it to the patronage of our people.

Resolved, That our Sunday School publications at Nashville are adapted to the wants of our Church, and that they ought to be in all our Sabbath Schools and in all our families.

The following resolution was also adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the "Monthly Messenger" is doing a good work for the cause of Methodism within the District, does not antago-

nize our Church papers, and is worthy of our patronage.

Speeches of commendation of the "Messenger" were made by Rev. T. W. Guthrie and F. A. Clark, Esq., and responded to by Rev. M. H. Hoyle, one of its Editors.

Monroe Circuit—Rev. M. H. Hoyle, Pastor. Second year on the circuit; last year was a prosperous one; built up a great deal; Methodism was built up and vital Godliness increased. I have been afflicted this year; did not preach in three months after last Sunday in March. Because of my affliction this has been the saddest year of my life. I tendered my resignation, but the brethren kindly refused to accept it; they determined to support me. After three months rest I resumed my work, against the protest of my Presiding Elder and physician, and in five or six weeks I broke down again. I could not rest because I felt the care of the Church upon me. I still have charge of the work.

Spiritual condition of my charge good, considering they have had no Pastor. I have received valuable assistance from Revs. J. E. Irby and Hosea Hale, and also from laymen. They have been true to the Church during my affliction. Have five prayer-meetings doing a good work, kept up by laymen; have about a dozen young men who pray in public; an average number who hold family prayer—many do not; have five Sabbath Schools doing well, considering their facilities; they do not use Lesson Papers; I think they would do much better with our literature. Have only one good Church building; twelve preaching places; have titles for seven; some of these Churches are very poor; four of them have stoves. The parsonage is tolerably comfortable. I repaired it myself. I did the work and furnished, in addition thereto, sixty-four dollars and ten cents worth of material. Church property valued at $3,300. Our Church Ordinances not as well attended as I think they would be with a little instruction; there are only a few who do not take the Sacrament; have a great deal of trouble with intemperance; members do not dance; had a circus last year and not one of his members attended that he knows of; Church papers not well taken. Mr. H. Lee reports about one fourth of salary paid. He knows that some of the Stewards have looked after his Pastor's comfort. They hope to pay him up. Bro. Hoyle reports that his Stewards are very faithful men; he does not remember to have seen one of them who did not inquire after his comfort. He

mentions, with a grateful heart, the kindness of the people of Monroe. The merchants have not charged him a cent for credit. He gets his goods all supplied, even groceries, at the very lowest cash prices.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by H. G. Fladger, Esq., of Lilesville, and unanimously adopted, viz:

WHEREAS, The desecration of the Churches by spitting on the floors and defacing the walls and seats is becoming so common among us, and is alike inconsistent with propriety and decency; therefore,

Resolved, That all our people who respect themselves or the house of God, should refrain from such practices and endeavor to get all others to do the same.

That a copy of this resolution be furnished to the Pastors of the different charges, with request that they read the same to their people and ask them to clean out their houses of worship as early as practicable, and endeavor to keep them so.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. Z. Rush, and unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That, as a District Conference, we hereby express our sincere sympathies for our Brethren, Revs. M. H. Hoyle, C. M. Pepper and W. D. Lee, who have been providentially hindered in their work by affliction, and we will pray God to speedily restore them to soundness.

This resolution elicited much feeling, because the three ministers named are eminent for their piety, zeal and usefulness, and are highly esteemed and beloved throughout the District.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. T. Page Ricaud, in behalf of the Albemarle Circuit, and was unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That we request the Charlotte District Conference, to memorialize the N. C. Annual Conference, to send a Missionary to China, and support him.

This action of the Albemarle Circuit was commended in a strong speech by Rev. T. W. Guthrie, of Wadesboro.

Rev. J. A. Cunninggim delivered a very strong and eloquent address upon our Colleges, their merits and claims upon us; and Rev. T. M. Jones, D. D., President of Greensboro Female College, also made a few remarks upon Greensboro and its operations.

Adjourned to meet at two o'clock, and make it the special business of the hour to elect Lay Delegates to the next Annual Conference.

———o———

AFTERNOON SESSION.

President in the Chair at 2½ o'clock. Prayer by Rev. T. Page Ricaud.

Arrival of Rev. J. W. Abernathy, of South Charlotte, announced.

Messrs. John Robinson, C. G. Montgomery, W. H. Smith and H. M. Houston were elected, with Dr. J. C. Brown and Rev. J. F. Butt, alternates, to the Annual Conference.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. John Robinson, and unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That this District Conference do hereby tender to the citizens of Monroe our heartfelt thanks for the very kind, hospital and pleasant manner in which they have entertained us during our stay among them, and that we do pray God's blessings upon them.

The above resolution was voted upon by rising, with a *hearty good will,* for every one felt that no people could have done more to render them happy and comfortable during their stay tnan did the people of Monroe.

The following was offered by Rev. A. A. Boshamer, of Charlotte, viz:

Whereas, We have, by resolution, expressed our sympathy with our afflicted Brethren, Revs. Dr. W. D. Lee, C. M. Pepper and M. H. Hoyle, we further

Resolve, That we will, as often as we can, fill their pulpits, and we will also make arrangements to hold a protracted meeting at each of their Churches during the Fall.

The following offered by Rev. A. A. Boshamer was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That we cheerfully recognize and highly appreciate the courtesy of the Pastors of the Presbyterian and Baptist congregations of this place in inviting us to occupy their pulpits on the Sabbath.

The following was also offered by Rev. A. A. Boshamer, and was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That we thank the authorities of the C. C. R'y for the kindness of reduced fare.

The following was then offered by Rev. Dr. W. D. Lee, and carried by a small majority:

Resolved, That if, in the opinion of the next General Conference, it shall be deemed best to transfer the territory of the State of N. C., now in the Holston and Virginia Conferences, to the N. C. Conference; in that case it is the opinion of this District Conference that the best interest of Methodism in N. C. will be promoted by a division of the Conference into two Conferences.

Rev. A. A. Boshamer offered the following which was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That our thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the choir of this Church for the excellent music with which they have favored us during the sitting of this Conference.

The following offered by F. A. Clark, Esq., was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due and are hereby tendered to C. G. Montgomery for the very efficient manner in which he has discharged his duties as Secretary.

On motion of Rev. H. P. Cole, our Secretary was requested to furnish a brief synopsis of the proceedings of this Conference to the "Raleigh Christian Advocate," for publication.

The President now delivered a very eloquent and pathetic appeal to the Conference to reconsecrate themselves to the work of the Master, to seek fresh supplies of grace that they may go out from this Conference with increased strength and with a more fixed determination to be more constant and faithful in their efforts to glorify God and build up His Churches. He was especially earnest in his entreaties that our Church stand united in a solid phalanx in opposition to the great evils, intemperance and worldly amusements, so prevalent in our day.

After singing a hymn, and the benediction by the President, the Conference adjourned *sine die.*

W. H. BOBBITT, President.

C. G. Montgomery, Secretary.

Monroe, N. C., August 4th, 1877.

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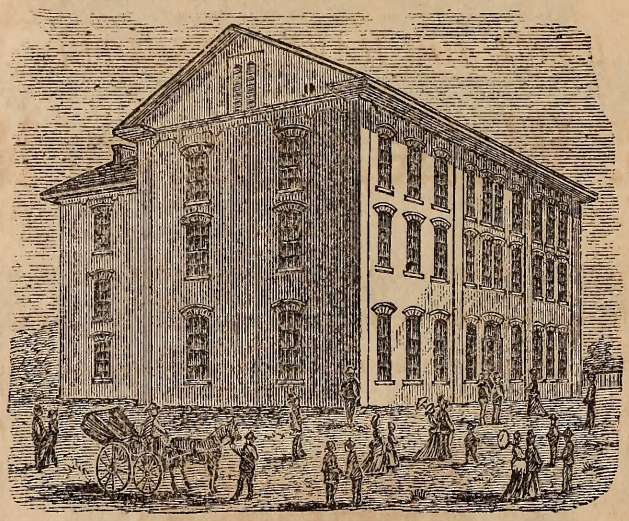

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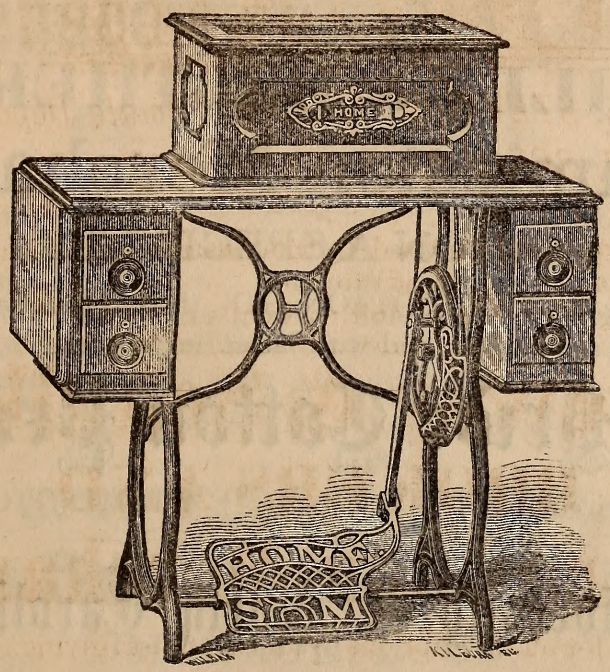

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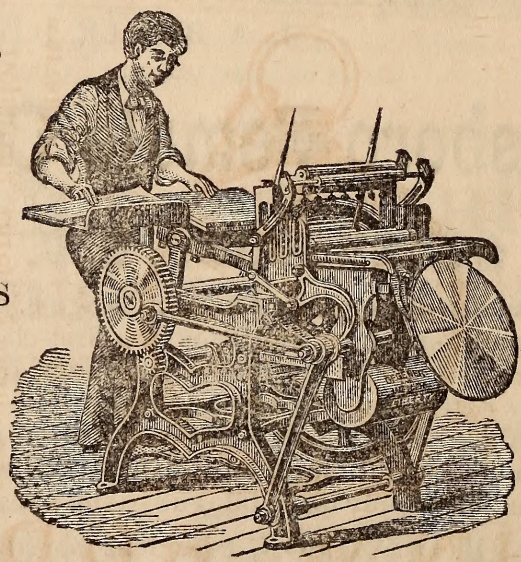

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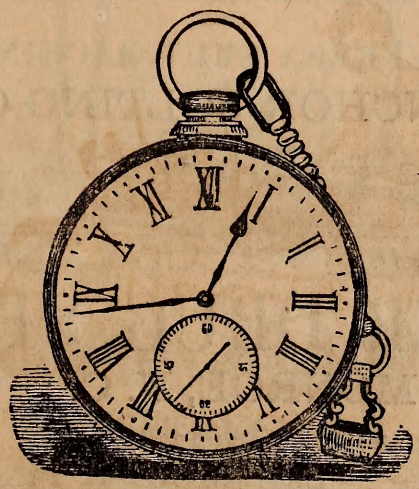

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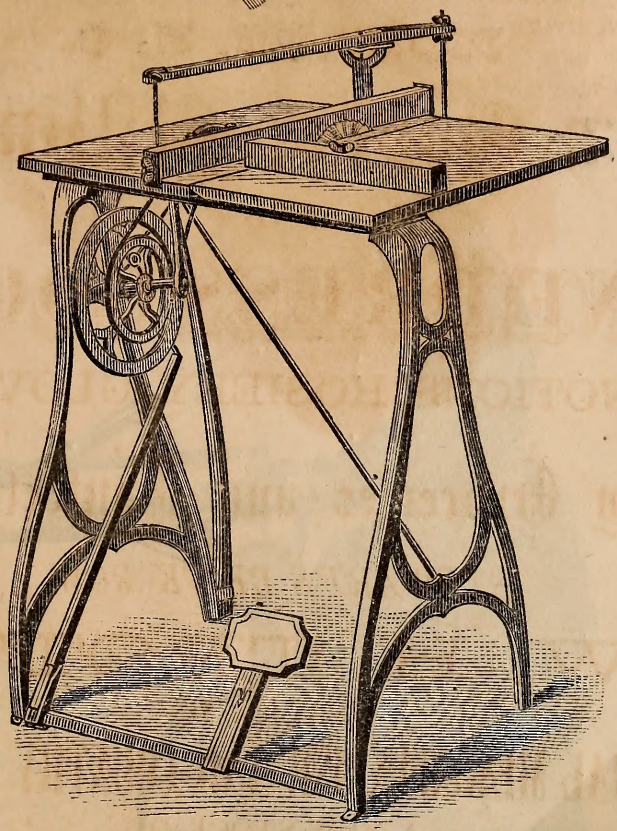

[Our $40 Combined Circular and Scroll Saw.]

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with which Bui ders, Cabinet Makers, Wagon Makers and Jobbers can compete, as to quality and price, with steam power manufactory.

A foot-power Scroll Saw, with which $10 to $15 per day can be made sawing Brackets, Ballusters, Palings, and can be used for a thousand different things in house building, sold for only $25.00; or with an attachment for two six inch Circular Saws, (one rip and one cut-off), for only $40.00. (See cut on this page.) Amateur Scroll Saws, $15. (See cut on next page.) Boring Machines, $40.00 Morticing Machines, $25.00. Lathes, $35. All first-class labor saving Machines, and at low prices.

Cash orders for any of the above received by W. C. WOLFE, our Agent at Monroe, N. C., and to whom application for any further information can be made. See testimonials on next page.

W. F. & J. Barnes
ROCKFORD, Winnebago County, Ill.

READ WHAT THEY SAY.

We subjoin below a few extracts from letters which we are continually receiving about the actual merits of our machine, so that the reader can see whether our statements are borne out by the facts. He will notice that these reports cover the points of profit, economy, ease, accuracy, speed, capacity for heavy work, durability and strength. We might increase these extracts by hundreds:

C. F. Plympton, Oconomowoc, Wis.: "I have been using your scroll saw now one year with entire satisfaction. I think it can be profitably used by any mechanic who runs a shop."

Will. H. Bast, Orion, Ind.: "The saw works well. I would not be without it for twice its cost."

Q. J. Hoke, Rock Hill, S. C.: "I am well pleased with my machine; it has paid for itself long ago."

[Onr $15 Amateur Scroll Saw.]

Our $25 Scroll and Bracket Saw is used by House-Builders and other Practical Mechanics.

Monroe, N. C., Sept. 11th, 1877.

Gents: I have been using one of your $25 Scroll Saws regularly for three years, during which time it has cut hundreds of dollars worth of brackets and ballusters, and has not cost a cent for repairs. To say that I am well pleased with it would but poorly express the high opinion I have of it; in fact, money could hardly buy it if I could not get another. One of its admirable features is its simplicity; needs no practice to enable one to run it skillfully.

Respectfully, J. T. Hart, House-builder and Contractor.

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